

Montague Historical Commission
Minutes/Summary of MHC meeting of September 26, 2022

Meeting held in person at the Montague Town Hall and on-line.

Commissioners present:

David Brule
Chris Clawson
Ed Gregory
Suzanne LoMonto
Janel Nockleby
Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno

Proceedings:

1. Convene at 11:03
2. Discussion of the old Fire Station in Lake Pleasant Village:
 - a. David James led inquiry into possible re-use of the building; possible use by Historical Society, village Assn meetings , etc.
 - b. Historical value: possibly 75 years old.
 - c. LP water district disbanded and building given to Montague Water Dept.
 - d. Ed Gregory will follow up with David James.
3. Discussion of Demolition By-Law
 - a. Approved by AG on September 13.
 - b. Public posting a WIP. Will be done in all 6 precincts for 2 weeks.
 - c. Noted that Trinity has not yet filed a demolition permit.
 - d. Once that occurs, MHC will follow protocols of holding a public hearing, etc.
 - e. Specifics re which other town buildings may be jurisdictional. Discussion re required reasons for delay: not necessary, but advisable.
 - f. Time constraints? When request to demolish is filed, the building inspector has 30 days to review. The MHC has to hold a public hearing to intake public comment and opinion.
 - g. Discussion re. requiring an independent evaluation: to be determined. Can possibly be requested by MHC.
 - h. Questions re. which artifacts the MHC would like to preserve. JS will develop a list that may include the maple tree, ginko tree, dedication /namesake bricks, exterior statues, etc.

4. Blacksmith Shop in Montague Center

- a. CSL and CC visited site, could find no sign of forge or chimney that would support a forge, blacksmithing activities, etc.
- b. They felt the building is in good shape and stable. No issues with the structure.
- c. The building inspector could require an outside evaluation to determine if structure should be demolished.

5. Other items:

- a. Canal district updates, see October calendar.
- b. Thought should be given to investigate and eventually incorporate a town Historical Preservation Plan.